

Message Text

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ACTION ARA-10

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E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PINT, ELAB, SOPN, PQ
SUBJECT: ANTI-TREATY ACTIVITIES IN CANAL ZONE

REF: PANAMA 1155

SUMMARY: ANTI-TREATY ACTIVITIES IN CANAL ZONE CONTINUED
WITH SELL-OUT DINNER-SPEECH TUESDAY EVENING BY GOV.
MELDRIM THOMSON, SMALL SECOND DAY OF DEMONSTRATIONS BY
BALBOA HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS WEDNESDAY, AND RALLY AT
BALBOA STADIUM WEDNESDAY EVENING ATTENDED BY AROUND 2000
PEOPLE BUT AS OF 11 HOURS THUSDAY, STUDENTS ARE
BACK IN CLASS, AND PANCANAL REPORTS NO PATTERN OF
ABSENTEEISM AND ALL OPERATIONS NORMAL. END SUMMARY.

1. ANTI-TREATY ACTIVITIES CONTINUED IN CANAL ZONE AFTER
TUESDAY'S STUDENT DEMONSTRATION (REFTEL). TUESDAY
EVENING, GOV. MDELDRIM THOMSON OF NEW HAMPSHIRE ADDRESSED
A SELL-OUT CROWD OF A COUPLE OF HUNDRED IN A FUND-
RAISING DINNER (\$11.50 PER PLATE) AT AMERICAN LEGION CLUB
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TO HELP PAY TRAVEL COSTS OF "TRUTH SQUAD" MEMBERS HERE
THIS WEEK. REPORTEDLY, THOMPSON CALLED ON CANAL ZONE
RESIDENTS TO WRITE, TELEGRAPH OR PHONE SENATORS AND TO
URGE STATESIDE FRIENDS TO DO SAME, TO BEAT TREATY
IN SENATE. WE UNDERSTAND HE SAID NOTHING ABOUT EMPLOYEE
JOB ACTION ON CANAL.

2. WEDNESDAY MORNING, AROUND 200 BALBOA HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS HELD A SECOND DAY OF ANTI-TREATY DEMONSTRATIONS, MILLING AROUND ADMINISTRATION BUILDING FROM ABOUT 0800 UNTIL ABOUT 1345. PANCANAL REPORTED STUDENT ABSENTEEISM AT BALBOA HIGH OF AROUND 34 PERCENT WEDNESDAY (OVIOUSLY NOT ALL OF THOSE ABSENT WERE AMONG DEMONSTRATORS). CRISTOBAL HIGH SCHOOL ABSENTEEISM WAS ALSO ABOVE NORMAL, BUT THERE WERE NO REPORTS OF DEMONSTRATIONS ON ATLANTIC SIDE. PANCANAL EXPERIENCED NO REPORTS OF DEMONSTRATIONS ON ATLANTIC SIDE. PANCANAL EXPERIENCED NO PATTERN OF EMPLOYEE ABSENTEEISM AND NO EFFECT ON ANY OTHER ASPECT OF OPERATIONS ON WEDNESDAY.

3. WEDNESDAY EVENING, FEBRUARY 22, CONSERVATIVE CAUCUS "TRUTH SQUAD" HELD A RALLY AT BALBOA STADIUM. POLICE PRELIMINARY CROWD ESTIMATE WAS AROUND 2000. THROUGHOUT RALLY, A CROWD OF SECONDARY STUDENTS REMAINED ON FIELD SPORTING ANTI-TREATY SIGNS, PLUS OTHERS ASKING PARENTS TO JOIN THEIR WALKOUT. OTHER SIGNS IN CROWD CALLED FOR STRIKE. RALLY BEGAN WITH PRESENTATION OF A PIN, ON BEHALF OF GOV. THOMSON, TO LEADERS OF STUDENT DEMONSTRATION, AND A HARANGUE FROM ONE GIRL WHO ACCUSED AUDIENCE OF LEAVING STUDENTS TO DO "WHAT OUR PARENTS ARE AFRAID TO DO".

4. VISITING "TRUTH SQUAD" SPEAKERS WERE COL. (RET) LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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FRANKLYN L. SEIBERT, GRANDSON OF BUILDER OF GATUN LOCKS; AND CONGRESSMEN DAVID MARRIOT OF UTAH AND MICKEY EDWARDS OF OKLAHOMA. THEY TALKED ABOUT WORLD COMMUNISM AND SAVING AMERICA BY SAVING THE CANAL. ATTACKS ON TORRIJOS GOVERNMENT DREW APPLAUSE. THEY STRESSED THAT AMERICANS IN CANAL ZONE WERE SUPPORTED BY THE US PEOPLE, AND CALLED ON THOSE PRESENT TO RALLY BEHIND LEADERS LIKE "LOU FATTOROSI, BILL DRUMMOND, CHARLOTTE KENNEDY AND BUD GREEN."

5. ONLY SPEAKER FROM ISTHMUS WAS LOUIS FATTOROSI, PRESIDENT OF CANAL ZONE CENTRAL LABOR UNION-METAL TRADES COUNCIL. HE RECALLED HIS WITHDRAWAL, UNDER ALLEGED PRESSURE FROM AFL-CIO, FROM TRUTH SQUAD" JANUARY TRIP, AND REBUTTED A STATEMENT AT THAT TIME BY AN AFL-CIO SPOKESMAN THAT AFL-CIO AFFILIATES, AMERICAN AND PANAMANIAN, HAD BEEN CONSULTED AND FELT THEIR INTERESTS ADEQUATELY PROTECTED BY NEW TREATIES. FATTOROSI SAID THIS PREMISE, ON WHICH AFL-CIO SUPPORT OF TREATIES WAS BASED, WAS BLATANTLY FALSE--HE CHALLENGED ANYONE TO TELL HIM WHAT LOCAL LABOR LEADER HAD TOLD AFL-CIO THAT LABOR HERE WAS SATISFIED.

FATTOROSI SAID THAT HE HAD JUST RECEIVED A PHONE CALL
FROM ROY GELBHAUS, PRESIDENT OF CANAL ZONE FIRE FIGHTERS
AND CLU-MTC DELEGATE AT AFL-CIO EXECUTIVE COUNCIL

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MEETING IN BAL HARBOR, FLORIDA. HE SAID GELBHAUS
REPORTED THAT FOR THE FIRST TIME, CANAL ZONE LABOR MIGHT
BE GETTING SOME SUPPORT FROM AFL-CIO, BUT THAT AFL-CIO
HAD BEEN TOLD BY "STATE DEPARTMENT" THAT FATTOROSI
AND DRUMMOND HAD BEEN ATTACKING TREATY AT PUBLIC RALLY
LAST THURSDAY (PANAMA 1128). GELBHAUS SAID AFL-CIO
FELT THAT SUCH ATTACKS WERE UNHELPFUL AND SHOULD BE
STOPPED. FATTOROSI ASKED CROWD "WHAT IS YOUR ANSWER
TO THAT?" (TO WHICH A SMALL CLAQUE RESPONDED "STRIKE...
GO SICK...SHUT HER DOWN") AND CLOSED SAYING "THE CHOICE
IS UP TO YOU." RALLY ENDED AND CROWD DISPERSED AROUND
2100.

6. AS OF 1100 THURSDAY FEBRUARY 23, PANCANAL REPORTS
SITUATION IN CANAL ZONE QUIET. A FEW STUDENTS FROM
CURUNDU JUNIOR HIGH APPEARED AROUND ADMINISTRATION
BUILDING, THEN LEFT. BALBOA AND CRISTOBAL HIGH
STUDENTS SEEM TO BE BACK IN CLASS. A FEW AT
BALBOA REPORTEDLY HUNG BACK BRIEFLY AT OPENING OF CLASSES,
THEN WENT INSIDE. PANCANAL REPORTS A FEW SCATTERED
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WORKER ABSENCES WHICH MAY BE SUSPICIOUS, BUT NO GENERAL PATTERN OF ABSENTEEISM AND NO EFFECT ON ANY ASPECT OF ITS OPERATIONS.

7. PANAMA CITY MEDIA HAVE GENERALLY PLAYED THIS ACTIVITY IN LOW KEY. ARTICLES ARE MOSTLY FACTUAL AND ARE OVERSHADOWED BY REPORTS ON SENATE ACTIVITY EDITORIAL COMMENT MOSTLY ACCORDS TO THE "ZONIAN" AN ALIBI OF NOT GUILTY BY REASON OF COLONIALIST INSANITY. A FULL-PAGE PICTORIAL SPREAD IN "CRITICA" ON TUESDAY'S BALBOA HIGH DEMONSTRATION INCLUDED, FOR BALANCE, A SMILING BLOND GIRL SPORTING A SIGN SAYING "GENERAL I'M WITH YOU" IN SPANISH. ONLY WARNING NOTES HAVE BEEN EDITORIAL ASSERTIONS THAT "ZONIAN" INSTIGATORS, PROBABLY LED BY DRUMMOND, WANT A REPEAT OF BLOODY 1964 RIOTS. PANAMANIAN ARE URGED NOT TO RESPOND TO THIS PROVOCATION. THERE WAS LITTLE COVERAGE OF WEDNESDAY EVENING RALLY.

8. COMENT: NO SPEAKERS WEDNESDAY NIGHT, VISITORS OR LOCAL, MADE ANY REFERENCE TO BEATING TREATY IN THE SENATE. WORD OF VOTE ON TABLING SEN. ALLEN'S PROCEDURAL MOTION ARRIVED JUST BEFORE RALLY, BUT NOBODY SAID A PUBLIC WORD ABOUT IT. FATTOROSI WAS NOTABLY MORE CAUTIOUS THAN USUAL. HE SAID CLU-MTC WAS ON RECORD WITH A RESOLUTION OPPOSING TREATY, BUT HE REFRAINED FROM AN OPENLY POLITICAL ATTACK ON TREATY. NOR, ALTHOUGH HIS INTENT WAS FAIRLY CLEAR, DID HE SAY A WORD THAT SPECIFICALLY CALLED FOR A SICK-OUT OR SOME SIMILAR EMPLOYEE ACTION. IN SPITE OF ALL THE ACTIVITY OF THE PAST THREE DAYS, THE STRIKE IDEA HAS FAILED TO CATCH FIRE. WE BELIEVE THAT THE PROBABILITY OF ANY POLITICALLY-MOTIVATED MASS CANAL EMPLOYEE ACTION AGAINST THE TREATY PROPER HAS PASSED ITS ZENITH AND THAT THE

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CHANCE THAT THE "ZONIAN" WILL WALK OUT EN MASSE FOR STRICTLY POLITICAL REASONS IS GOING TO BEGIN TO DIMINISH SHARPLY FROM THIS POINT ONWARD.

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